

Myerstown United Church of Christ

The Reign of Christ

November 24, 2019

Worship Time 10:00 am

Traditional Service of the Word

Prelude *Variations on "Now Thank We All Our God"* S Quesnel

Welcoming & Announcing

(will all who are able, please stand)

*Coming Together [Leader/All]

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
We glorify our God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.

Always saying, 'Thank you!'

To the One who loves us.

We will sing our praises,

Shouting of God's presence in our lives.

*Inviting God's Presence

Let us pray as one.

Lord of bounty and blessing, we come to you this day in gratitude for all that we have been given. We are grateful for the blessings and for the opportunities to be of service to others in your holy Name. Be with us in our worship and bless each of us here, that we may become truly blessings to others. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*Singing #14 *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
(the congregation may be seated)

Admitting Our Indiscretions

Preparing For Prayer

Asking For Forgiveness

Because we live in this modern, tech-driven, twittering age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing. We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new computer skills but

have forgotten that life is more than a machine. We have more than we could ever use yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily.

Forgive us, Restorer of life. As you clothe us with your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little. As our hearts overflow with your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet. As you feed us with your joy and hope, may we welcome to the Table all those whose lives are filled with tears and pain. As we gather with family and friends during this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Petitioning In Silence

Expressing Our Gratitude

This is the good news: as God dresses creation in wonder,
So we will be clothed in grace;

As God pours out abundance upon the earth,
So we will be blessed with peace and joy.

We are blessed,

For we are forgiven. Amen.

Praising #448 *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

Conversing With Children

Listening for God's Word

A Responsive Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

We are his people,

And the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

And his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

His steadfast love endures forever,

And his faithfulness to all generations.

[will those who are able please stand for the reading of the Gospel]

*A Reading from the Gospels John 6:25-35

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ as remembered by John in verses 25 through 35 of chapter 6.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal. Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God? Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

This is where the reading ends. It is the gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

[the congregation may be seated]

Homily *Enter His Courts With Praise and Thanksgiving* Peter Hook

Reflecting *Thanksgiving Hymn* KREMSER

Voicing Our Needs, Concerns, and Thanks Rev. Hook

Praying As Our Savior Taught Us

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not

into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Thanking God Through Our Offerings

Inviting Our Expression of Thanks

Offertory *O Gott, du frommer Gott* Max Reger

*Responding #147 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Blessing

O God, we long to make a difference in our world. We offer you what we have: our visions and dreams; our witness to your saving acts of love and justice; our resources to help bring the new heaven and new earth into our midst. We offer you our very lives, that we may be coworkers with you to bring about true change.

*Affirming Our Faith *The Heidelberg Catechism* Hymnal Back Cover

*Bringing Our Time Together to a Close

The Creator of heaven and earth sends us out,

May we go to being help to all around us.

The Bringer of grace sends us out,

May we go to offer hope and healing to the broken.

The Spirit of peace sends us out,

May we go to bring reconciliation in all the broken places.

*Benediction Rev. Hook

*Recessing #459 *Come, All Christians, Be Committed* BEACH SPRING

*Meditating

Postlude *Voluntary on "Kremser"* Gordon Young

Acknowledgements

A native of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, Peter Hook has also called Indiana and Texas his home. A US Army veteran, he served in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division. Peter holds a BS from Lancaster Bible College and a MTh from Dallas Theological Seminary. His academic pursuits include a faculty position at Philadelphia Biblical University and as a National Instructor for Walk Thru the

Bible Ministries. Rev Hook's ministry includes being a pastor, church consultant, and intentional interim pastor. Since 2010 Rev. Hook has served as State Chaplain of the Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars as well as being elected Eastern Conference Chaplain and National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Peter and his wife, Carolyn, have been married for 50 years. They have one son and three grandchildren.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the Glory of God in a spirit of thanksgiving for all that God has done for us individually and as a community of faith.

Liturgy for this service was reprinted with permission from Lectionary Liturgies, <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2019/11/thanksgiving-day-liturgy.html> and from Ministry Matters Worship Elements: Thanksgiving Day, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4397/thanksgiving-sunday-yr-c>.

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Worship Assistants for December 1, 2019

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** Cal Beamesderfer
Greeters: Sue Harvey **Worship Leader:** William Arnold
 10:00 am Service **Sound:** Paulie McQuate
Greeters: Sara Zeller **Worship Leader:** Kristi Fields
Ushers: Jeff, Holly, and Hannah Rosen, Kenny Patrick
Counting Team: Ted & Carol Batdorff, Darryl Brown, Marie Hibshman
Communion Servers: Ed & Candy Hibshman, Steve & Marianne Fritsch
Advent Wreath Lighting: Jeff, Holly, Hannah, Jared, and Anna Rosen

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Prayer List

Nancy Brown	Rosene Duffy	Larry Eisenhauer
Ellen Goodyear	Ruthann Snoke	Joyce Mitstifer
Ralph Woynarowski	Jewel Fessler	Linda Feaser
Bill Gracely	Rosalla Hollenbach	Joanne Frantz
David Mock	James Haines	Heather & Elvin Perez
Steve Norford		Family of Arlene Spangler

Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, November 24
 8:00 am Worship, Peter Hook preaching
 8:45 am Small group meetings.
 10:00 am Worship, Peter Hook preaching
 7:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service, Theater on Main Stoneridge @ Poplar Run

Monday, November 25
 8:30 am Strong Bones is **not** meeting
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Tuesday, November 26
No Pastor Office Hours This Week

Wednesday, November 27
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open
 6:30 pm Scouts

Thursday, November 28 **Happy Thanksgiving**
 8:30 am Strong Bones is **not** meeting

Friday, November 29
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Saturday, November 30
 3:30 pm Myerstown Holiday Parade
 6:15 pm Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, December 1 **First Sunday in Advent**
 8:00 am Worship; Jim Yoder preaching
 8:45 am Small group meetings
 10:00 am Worship; Jim Yoder preaching

Announcements

EMILY FRANTZ is on vacation until November 30th. Please contact the church office with any concerns normally directed to her.

USHERS & COMMUNION SERVERS are needed for the Christmas Eve, 6:30 pm service. If you will be attending that service, please contact Marie Hibshman as soon as you can.

WITH SADNESS, we learned that Arlene Spangler died on November 18th. Services are private. Donations to the Myerstown UCC Organ fund are in order by request of the family.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY and Carol Sing will be held on the Square at Main and Locust Streets, Myerstown, on Saturday, November 30th, at 6:30 pm. The instrumental music will begin at 6:15 pm. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the sanctuary of the Myerstown United Church of Christ. Following the ceremony, there will be refreshments by candlelight at the Isaac Meier House on South College Street, Myerstown.

WILL YOU DONATE ONE HOUR?: Friedens Lutheran Church has invited us and Myerstown Church of the Brethren to participate in their Salvation Bell ringing at Smith Candies. MCOB has taken all of Saturday, Dec 14th. There is a sign-up form on the Information Table for sic shifts on Saturday, Dec 21st. This is a *no-cost-to-us* way of providing community support and helping people in need.

VINEYARD: It seems that by the time we get finished reading the Vineyard, it's time again to submit articles! The request is for all committees and task groups to provide a synopsis about what has been happening during the previous month. It could be the minutes reduced to a paragraph or a listing of projects started-completed-updated. They should be emailed to the church office for easier placement in the newsletter. Please submit by Monday,

2019 CONTRIBUTIONS: The last day to submit church offering to be credited in 2019 is Friday, January 3, 2020. The church is upgrading to new software the first week in January. Financial statements will be produced from the old system.

THE ANGEL TREE: Our annual Angel Tree in support of LCCM has been placed in the Gathering Area. Please refer to the November Vineyard for more information.

MANUAL LABORER NEEDED: There is a project in the church office that can be done sitting at the table. Only one person can help at a time. There is no urgency; at the same time, the sooner-the-better. If interested, put a note in the communication book on the Information Table. The church secretary will get in touch with you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Save your stamps again this year by using the in-house Christmas Card service. For those who may not remember, you can bring cards in for members of the congregation. Members of the congregation can bring cards in for you. Everyone can pick up their cards in the alphabetical-slot boxes in the Gathering Area. Coin envelopes will be provided in case you want to give a portion of what you saved by not mailing them!

CHRISTMAS CARDS-PART 2: We need someone to take the lead on this project. It involves putting out the boxes and sorting the cards as they are dropped into the "mail box."

Welcome to Myerstown United Church of Christ

Church Office: 304 West Main Avenue, Myerstown , PA 17067-1023

Phone: 717/866-5252 myerstownucc@comcast.net

website: myerstownuccchurch.org

Kory Leppo----- 717-269-6033 ----- Council President
 Marie Hibshman 717-343-3247 ----- Elder
 Jim Yoder----- 252-258-4268 ----- Bridge Pastor
 Emily Frantz----- 717-383-1147 ----- Parish Administrator
 Mark Herr----- 717-572-7734 -Family & Community Ministry Coordinator
 Lindy Bennetch----- Financial Administrator
 Jim Yoder----- Church Secretary
 Elicia Frank----- Custodian

Worship Assistants

Appreciation to the following who participated in today's service:

Organist Mark Herr

8:00 am Service

Open Church: William & Betty Arnold

Greeter:

Shirley Krall

Worship Leader:

Sally Kulp

10:00 am Service

Greeter:

Dawn Hassler

Worship Leader Doug Bohannon

Sound:

Bob Dash

Ushers

Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick

Counting Team

Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott

Stewardship Report for Sunday, November 17, 2019

General Fund	\$2,576	OCWM	\$75
Church Improvement Fund		\$115	
Attendance 8 am:	20	Attendance 10 am:	42